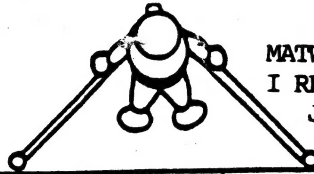


INSIDE MATWATCH.....

King Haku Arrested.....2
Kevin Dumped.....2
Comings & Goings.....3

MATWATCH Shoppers Network.....4

I REMEMBER: Red Bastain & Omar Atlas vs.
Johnny Valentine & Boris Malenko....4
TV TEMPO.....5-6



MARCH 27 - APRIL 2

MATWATCH

213 PINE HILLS AVE. AUBURN, AL. 36830 (205) 826-7522

VOL. 1, No. 40

STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS By Steve Beverly



THE CLOCK STRIKES 12

Lawrence Welk has turned off the bubble machine and Saturday nights just aren't the same.

Another vestige of the Jim Crockett NWA era was peeled away last Wednesday when Jim Cornette & the Midnight Express made the decision not to accept new contracts at \$125,000 per year each.

The decision, so MATWATCH has learned from sources outside the TBS organization, was not based on a money problem or a desire to work for another organization. Cornette, sources say, could not get assurances that the team would be used in a fashion other than to lose matches to get other teams over. The collective feeling of the trio is that they would be placed in a scenario which may have killed the Midnights' careers within a year.

Jim Herd and Jack Petrik, both NWA executives were out of the TBS offices Friday when we tried to reach them but we will endeavor to contact them next week.

As for me, I am sick. Sick because both sides were unable to come to an agreement. I have been told by reliable sources the company wanted Cornette to manage other teams or wrestlers but he was unwilling to break up the Midnight act, a decision which may have placed him in an untenable position with TBS.

However, I disagree with some elements of the NWA who have rigidly stuck to the view that a babyface manager can't get over. In my view, the change in style of the Cornette/Midnights combo last October freshened a focus on one of the profession's most talented tag teams and popped crowds for the effervescent Cornette on shows when few other feuds were doing so.

The Cornette-Paul E. Dangerously tensions have been so hot that not even the departure of

Dennis Condrey for the loser-leave-NWA showdown of Midnights vs. Midnights at Chi-Town Rumble could kill fan enthusiasm for this much-underrated program.

Plus, has it dawned on you that the two teams responsible for the BROADCAST MATCH OF THE YEAR, according to your MATWATCH votes, in 1988, are now gone or headed out of the NWA only one year after the classic Midnights-Fantastics matchups? Did they decline that quickly? I hardly think so. But someone in the TBS organization obviously did. Am I blaming the company totally for this state of affairs? No. It made a respectable money offer to keep the Cornette/Midnights triumvirate and they made the decision to reject.

But what bothers me more than anything is the distinct feeling that an influential element within the NWA hierarchy (and I am not referring to Herd or Petrik) obviously did not want them as a serious force and Cornette, not reputed as a complainer, came away feeling as though this same element had no desire to communicate with him, Bobby Eaton or Stan Lane.

Regardless of where the Midnights & Corny end up (right now, they plan to work as indies but bet the house they'll be in Titan---a place they don't yearn to work---in short order), my question to the NWA is the same one as last week: who do you have out there better? True, a positive move is being made with the incoming Brian Pillman (see page 3) but who do you team him with---and anything less than Owen Hart, Chris Benoit, Brad or Scott Armstrong or Tom Prichard (preferably Hart) is, in my view, no improvement.

You know the worst of it? I can't help but feel this could have been avoided with better communication and a little more give and take. But unless something better is on the way, it will not be regarded well by NWA fans. I, for one don't feel Cornette, at 27, is a candidate for AARP.

SUPER SUNDAY: THE CRYSTAL BALL

I grew up in turbulent times of protest when the U.S. struggled with whether our government truly wanted to win a war in Vietnam. While street rallies aren't associated with a different war in 1989, the prevailing opinion is that TBS is carrying as much ammunition in Sunday's battle versus Titan Sports as a 36-bomb capacity fighter carrying two bombs.

(Continued on Next Page...SUPER)

STEVE'S SIDELIGHTS: SUPER (Continued)

I've informally polled 20 folks I know to be wrestling fans but who don't know about MATWATCH. All knew about Hulk Hogan vs. Randy Savage, even though none could name me three other matches for WRESTLEMANIA V. On paper, that suggests WM5 clearly has the edge because 16 of the same 20 didn't even know TBS was running a free show this Sunday. Why does Vince have all the momentum on his side?:

***TELEVISION: The Hogan-Savage storytelling saga has been carefully crafted to build intensity. Even if fans don't care loads about the rest of WM5, they want to see this showdown. As for TBS, as of Friday night, it had not even told its viewers of a Steamboat-Flair rematch or the gathering of ex-world champs. It's as if the NWA is trying to stump the panel on I'VE GOT A SECRET.

***PROMOTION: The Titan blitz is much more focused than last year's chaotic WWF tournament. Even in the lower card matches, one has to concede that Tully & Arn vs. Strike Force and Curt Hennig vs. Owen Hart Blazer overshadow interest in Sting vs. Rip Morgan or Keiji Muto vs. Steve Casey.

***PERCEPTION: None of the four of my unscientific sample of 20 who knew of CLASH VI could even tell me a solitary match for New Orleans. And no one had heard of the Friday CLASH preview show. But they certainly perceive the country's focus will be on WRESTLEMANIA.

Oddly, this WM has had less mainline media attention than any previous one. It does, however, promise to be superior to last year because the talent base of workers, slobs and power wrestlers is much better-balanced. TV and promotional buildups have been much better targeted and, frankly, the average fan is passionately into Hogan vs. Savage.

As bad as I dislike making this comment, TBS, apparently intent on using CLASH VI to build its more lucrative May 7 pay cable show, should have walked away from this one. Flair-Steamboat will be the best match of the day on either show but the steam, in my view, is out of it because of the weak TV push. As many as four of the nine matches may be decent but, unless I'm surprised, this may be a long 3½ hours. For all the aver-

age fans know of it, TBS ought to bring in Garry Moore as host to say, "If you'll whisper your secret to me, we'll show it to the folks at home."

*** THIS WEEK ' S ***
HEAD LINES

KING HAKU ARRESTED;
ARRAIGNMENT SET THIS WEEK

GATES, N.Y. - Pro wrestler Fifita Uliuli Tonga (King Haku) has been charged with third degree assault from a Feb. 15 fight. The alleged fracas occurred in a Gates bar.

Police say a brawl began when a woman refused Tonga/Haku's request to "bow to the king."

Tonga/Haku will be arraigned this week and could face a \$1,000 fine and one-year jail term if convicted. Titan Sports would not confirm Haku's status for WRESTLEMANIA V, where he is scheduled to face Hercules Hernandez.

KEVIN VON ERICH FIRED
AS WORLD CLASS WRESTLER

DALLAS - Reliable sources have told MATWATCH that former World Class heavyweight champion Kevin Von Erich has been fired from the organization by WCCW owner Jerry Jarrett.

The apparent dismissal stems from Von Erich's failure to make several recent shows for which he was booked. One source told us, "Jerry simply had enough and he had warned Kevin several times."

The firing comes on the heels of Von Erich's recent personal troubles in which he lost a luxury home to creditors. One source told us a reconciliation could occur but would have to be initiated by Von Erich.



KEVIN VON ERICH
REPORTEDLY
DUMPED BY
WORLD CLASS

ATLANTA'S WVEU SOLD; FUTURE
OF "SUPERSTARS" UNCERTAIN

ATLANTA - WVEU-TV, home of the Saturday night SUPERSTARS OF WRESTLING since September, has been sold to Home Shopping Network, Inc.

The sale, pending FCC approval, could affect the future of the seven-hour SUPERSTARS, the station's highest-rated block of programming.

SUPERSTARS co-host Boni Blackstone told MATWATCH nothing firm has been decided.

FUNK UPDATE: Terry Funk may change his mind, after all, and appear at CLASH OF THE CHAMPIONS VI, though it's far from a certainty. Dory Funk Jr. has told some insiders he believes Terry will wind up coming, along with the other seven former NWA champions scheduled.

ON BRUNO: It is true that the NWA had wanted to get Bruno Sammartino as another ex-champ to appear on CLASH and---at first---it appeared Bruno had agreed to do color commentary during the Flair-Steamboat rematch. However, word is Bruno felt he might jeopardize the future of his still-in-the-works wrestling venture with Merv Griffin. In our view, all a Bruno appearance may have accomplished was a slap at Vince McMahon and may well have alienated the former NWA champs.

PILLMAN'S PROGRESS: Brian Pillman is finally scheduled to join the NWA next week but there's no firm word on how he'll be used. In addition, the on-again, off-again situation with Bob Orton Jr. & the NWA is reportedly on again (April 30) and Buddy Landell is said to be about "an 80% certainty" of coming on the NWA roster. If Buddy keeps his act together, he could have some interesting matches with Ric Flair, if used properly.

ON THE ROAD: The musical group HIGHWAY 101, in addition to some local New Orleans jazz artists, will perform live prior to the Superdome show Sunday. It will be 101's first New Orleans appearance.

CENTRE STAGE: We'll be taking in the first WCW taping at Centre Stage in Atlanta this Thursday night (March 30). Portions of the Friday night COUNTDOWN TO CLASH show will be taped there as well.

TITAN TALES: Blue Blazer (Owen Hart) has been pinning Ron Bass in match-opening sequences around the WWF circuit...UNTIL the recent Calgary show when the Titan boys had Bass pin Owen clean in the middle right in front of his closest friends, fans and family. If a certain organization doesn't go after Owen with all due seriousness and groom him as a major star in this business, I'll never be able to explain it.

WM5 \$\$\$\$: The Atlantic City show was not a complete sellout as of this writing but it will be. Privately, Titan officials are predicting a 6-7% buy rate for WM5 but I'll bet the press releases are already written touting an all-time record 12% buy-in and \$50 million gross. And the mainline media will eat it all up, too.

WIN, LOSE OR FALL: The game shows keep drawing from a new pool...Sgt. Slaughter, Sika, and POWW stars Farmer's Daughter and Queen Kong populated the set last week of daytime WIN, LOSE OR DRAW.

MORE HULKAMOVIEA: Titan is now claiming NO HOLDS BARRED, the forthcoming Hulk Hogan flick, is an \$11 million production, not the \$20 million as originally reported. A film industry expert familiar with the situation has told MATWATCH the track record of distributor New Line Cinema with films, such as this, is to blitz publicity for about two weeks and then make it (as reviewer Chris Crosby predicted) a quick candidate for the home video market.

SCRATCH THE Z: In other cable news, the Z-Channel in Los Angeles has dropped its cable telecasts of live L.A. Sports Arena WWF shows. A three-way dispute has allegedly developed between Titan, the Sports Arena and the Z-Channel over telecast promotion, card lineups, etc.

RATINGS RAP: The WWF drew a 9.4 rating on 229 stations for the week ending March 5. That's a bit down from previous weeks in audience and total coverage but a number of pre-emptions are occurring in March, thanks to college basketball playoffs.

METRO NEWS: I'm about to get a tape on what I am told may be the all-time worst wrestling TV show

in history. It's called METRO CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING and airs on Prime Cable in Atlanta. Among its stars is a hybrid called Donnie Rich. If it's as bad as I'm told, I'll give it an upcoming review.

PROMOING APRIL 8: The upcoming NWA show in New Haven is getting a push on the alliance's New Haven-Hartford market affiliate but is reportedly getting no push at all on the New London CT station or in any of the New York markets from which it could draw. The card features Steamboat vs. Rotunda for the NWA belt and Flair vs. Luger for the U.S. title. Someone correct me in the mail if I'm wrong but is this not the first NWA show ever in New Haven?

DUNDEE'S TRAIL: I'm told it is "well done" but Bill Dundee comes to the aid of Tom Prichard in an upcoming CWF show, just two weeks after getting into a big beef with Dr. Tom on-set over his CWF belt. I wonder how confusing that is with viewers.

KERRY ON THE BRINK: Reliable sources tell us Kerry Von Erich nearly fell prey to the same fate as his brother. Kerry reportedly didn't show for a big Sportatorium card until his tag match was in progress (Chris Adams was subbed) and a quick angle blaming Iceman Parsons for his delay was created.

ON MIKE: I haven't been able to confirm this with the NWA but I'm told the rule about using the mike is not as rigid for the Iron Sheik and Paul E. Dangerously as it has been told it is for other performers including the now-departing Jim Cornette.

HOUSE PARTY: The Flair-Steamboat topline in Raleigh only drew 800 people last week. One key reason: I'm told Raleigh TV the week before never plugged the Raleigh show but a Fayetteville show (40 miles away) on a different night. Many Raleigh fans didn't even know an NWA card was being held.

MORE WOES: Speaking of....and I hate to constantly be bringing up TV problems because I truly like these people and their organization but why were interviews for an upcoming Baltimore match and specific references to a Baltimore Arena card inserted in syndicated shows of the NWA's in San Francisco, Montgomery and Columbus GA two weeks ago?

THIS SUMMER: In answer to many questions, the Crockett Cup tag tournament is apparently history in the NWA. One is neither booked, nor planned. Plus, I don't think the July PPV show will be under the umbrella GREAT AMERICAN BASH title, nor do I think there will be a BASH tour this summer. It may be another wipe out all connections with the Crockett era effort but I think it wise to remember the BASH was one Crockett promotion which drew good money.

TRAVELING MAN: Sam Houston turned up on Nelson Royal's ATLANTIC COAST show over the weekend, having put on a bit of weight and apparently ready to feud with Royal himself. He and wife Nicola Roberts teamed on the mike for part of the show. Ivan Koloff has also started for Royal. I'm still being told Ron Bass is headed for the PWF...but I'm also told the CWF wouldn't mind having him.

OUR SYMPATHIES: On a note far more important than anything in the wrestling world, our condolences go to NWA executive Jim Herd and his wife in the loss of Mrs. Herd's father. Similarly, our apology to those of you we have not been able to return phone messages to this week. We lost my wife's grandmother Wednesday morning and were away for two days.

BACK ISSUES: Remember, back copies of MATWATCH are available for \$1 each or \$4.00 for any package of 5. Check, cash or money order to STEVE BEVERLY, 213 PINE HILLS AVE., AUBURN AL 36830. Allow 6 weeks for delivery.

TAPE TRADERS

KEITH TRIBBETT, 115 Meese Dr., Ladson SC 29456, will trade World Class tapes for almost any area and has other area tapes available.

K.B. (Klon) HERRON, P.O. Box 2306, Melbourne FL 32902, is after either the English or Spanish versions of the WWC show. I've been told WWC is still airing in suburban New York but my source couldn't name the station.

JOHN LANIGAN, Box 583, McKeesport PA, is still trying to get the Bruiser Brody commemorative tape. The address we listed a few months back is now having letters returned stating "Addressee Moved."

PUBLICATIONS

WRESTLING PROFILE: Just received the premiere issue of Greg Price's well-produced new monthly newspaper. Beautiful color pic on the tabloid cover of Hogan & Savage. Cost: \$20 a year or \$2 per issue. Send to: WRESTLING PROFILE, Box 541, Indian Trail NC 28079-0541.

TWIN CITIES WRESTLING UPDATE: Kris Pope's monthly 14-pager. Heavy on Minneapolis-area news. \$2.50 per issue to TCWU, P.O. Box 31114, Minneapolis MN 55431.

PRO WRESTLING ENQUIRER: Harvey Cobb's bulletin more members of his PWE Fan Club Alliance. His new fan club is \$15 a year and you receive membership card, certificate and three PWE trading posts a year. Harvey will host PWE Night of Wrestling May 29 in Norfolk at Norfolk Arena, promoted by Robbie Robinson.

WRESTLING OBSERVER ANNUAL: This outstanding reference tool is \$12.95 for a single copy price and something essential for your library. I loved the directory of wrestlers and managers in its detail. Send to: Dave Meltzer, P.O. Box 1228, Campbell CA 95009-1228. 100 pp.

MATWATCH 1988: THE ANNUAL BEYOND: Only 9 copies remain of our 52-page yearender. Cost is \$5.50 to the regular MATWATCH address on our masthead on Page 1.

RADIO

STOUGHTON MA: Vinnie Carolan is on every Friday night from Midnight to 6 a.m. Sat. morning on WKOX-AM 1200 in the Stoughton area and talks wrestling every week. Be sure and tune in for Vinnie's updates.

Our April Shoppers Network will be featured in the April 17 issue. Send requests to: MATWATCH SHOPPERS NETWORK, 213 Pine Hills Ave., Auburn AL 36830. Not responsible for requests lost in mail.

I REMEMBER: Red Bastein & Omar Atlas vs. Johnny Valentine & Boris Malenko

This was a typical Saturday on CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING FROM FLORIDA, circa 1968. Bastein, whose hot feud with Valentine had seen him wrest the Florida belt away from the original Hammer, was stuck with Atlas, the proverbial jobber, in one of those matches where you could predict the finish from the introductions.

Valentine and Malenko, possibly one of the five most hated combinations in Florida ring history, literally destroyed Atlas in the opening fall of the time duration match. In classic Gordon Solie fashion, the Dean strained the emotion of viewers for the hapless Atlas with his John Daly-like, "This devastating annihilation and carnage has to be brought to a cessation."

Atlas could not answer the bell for the second fall, leaving the Red one to battle Valentine and The Great One solo. Time for the Solieism, "Great as Bastein is, just how much can any one man do against two?" Six times, Valentine and Malenko had pummeled Bastein to a certain fall with Valentine's classic elbow brainbuster and Malenko's clotheslines. Solie counted every two-count as a master announcer does to bring a fan to the edge of his Strat-O-Lounger (he forgot that during THE HOMECOMING).

After the sixth near-fall, and with fans screaming for referee Stu Schwartz to stop the match, Malenko went for a full body backbreaker and as he did, Bastein rolled Boris up into a small package as Solie bleated, "ONE...TWO...THREE!!!"

Oh, but that wasn't a fourth of the drama. Solie, the prim, precise Walter Cronkite who maintained his decorum at all times, literally leaped over the desk, crawled through the ropes, ran into the ring and grabbed Bastein in a bear hug of congratulations. One could imagine fans all over the Southeast calling, "Hey, Mabel, get in here....Gordon's gone berserk!"

Gordon even delivered his patented "so long from the Sunshine State" from the ring mike. For four weeks, Malenko didn't fail to castigate Solie and milked the result to its conflicting best. "You didn't have to run in the ring and hug his neck, Mr. TV Announcer," Boris would say.

Like Ed Capral's editorial we detailed a few weeks back on Butcher Vachon as Oki Yama, this stands out as one of the great examples of the 1960s of announcer-as-angle. I wonder when we'll see this from James Ross.

MATWATCH SCALE: PINFALL! - Must See. FILEDRIVER - Excellent. POWERSLAM - Good. DRAW - Average. RESTHOLD - Fair. BOMB - Poor. PLUS - Midscale rating.

(NOTE: AWA pre-empted and LEARNING THE ROPES a rerun this week.)

(FLORIDA) - HOMECOMING MATCHES: Dusty Rhodes d. Steelman to win first PWF title; Scott Hall/Steve Keirn d. Bam Bam Bigelow/Dick Slater and Oliver Rumpardink & Bigelow turn on Slater; FLORIDA TITLE: Al Perez d. Mike Graham. DRAW.

(CWA/SYND.) - Action Jackson/Robert Fuller d. Greenway/Hart; Master of Pain d. Hal Hopper; Jeff Jarrett d. Brodie Chase; Frankie Lancaster d. The Shadow. INTERVIEW: \$20,000 bounty continued on Jarrett; VIDEO: Mason-Dixon Connection. RESTHOLD.

(PORTLAND) - Jonathan Boyd no contest w. Nord the Barbarian; Al Madril loses DQ to Rex King; Scott Peterson d. Steve Doll when heel ref Scotty the Body holds Doll's trunks but Doll thinks Peterson did it; Top Gun d. Joey Jackson; Beetlejuice wins DQ over Scotty; Carl Stiles no contest w. The Grappler. ANGLE: Grappler makes fun of Stiles' family and Stiles takes off dressing room door and chases Grappler with it and later hits Grappler with his own loaded boot. POWERSLAM.

(ATLANTIC COAST) - David Isley d. Jack Jackson; Colt Steel d. Gene Ligon; M.O.D. Squad Spike d. South Pacific Connection Tai; Ricky Nelson d. Larry Stephens and Larry's "coach," Nelson Royal chews him out; Doug Sommers d. Tommy Angel; Ivan Koloff d. Rusty Riddle. INTERVIEWS: Sam Houston signs ACW contract and hints he's coming after Royal; The D.I. (Bob Carter) is introduced. Ivan Koloff tells Nikita Americans aren't bad. RESTHOLD.

(PWTW) - WCCW, Cactus Jack Manson d. Eric Embry in loser-leave-WCCW match; ACW, Nikita Koloff tells of lifelong dedication to caring for wife's cancer; CWA, Robert Fuller/Jimmy Golden d. Jed Grundy/Scott Steiner; PORTLAND, Al Madril wins squash; INVL MATCH, 6-man tag from Mexico; WWF, WM5 Update; CWF, Tom Prichard wins squash; NWA, Samoan Swat Team d. Crash Chandler/Gator Gilmore and later run in to attack Midnight Express & Jim Cornette. WRESTLER OF WEEK - Nikita Koloff. DRAW-PLUS.

(SCW) - Mr. Atlanta/David Sammartino d. Bobby Bennett/Chief Little Bear; Chic Donovan d. Lee Scott; Mr. Wrestling II/Nick Busich double DQ w. Dino Minelli/Steve Lawler; SOUTHERN TITLE: John Michaels retains with DQ win over Joel Deaton when Lawler/Minelli run in and choke John with Deaton's whip. ANGLE: David Sammartino attacked by Mr. Atlanta & Tommy Rich because David wouldn't let Mr. A score pinfall in tag match. RESTHOLD.

(WEF) - [CHALLENGE]: Brutus Beefcake d. Tim Patterson; Honky Tonk Man d. Riki Ataki; Rick Martel d. Jose Estrada; King Haku d. Valdez; Hart Foundation d. Dusty Wolfe/Mike Sharpe; Tully & Arn d. Tim Horner/Steve Powers. BOMB-PLUS.

[SPOTLIGHT]: From SNWE, Red Rooster d. Brooklyn Brawler; Brutus Beefcake wins DQ over Rick Rude; Honky Tonk Man/Greg Valentine d. Tim Horner/Tim Patterson; Other winners: Demolition, Dino Bravo. SEGMENT: WM5 Update. RESTHOLD-PLUS.

[SUPERSTARS]: Rick Martel d. Mike Sharpe; Hercules Hernandez d. Tim Patterson; Jim Duggan d. Black Knight; Ted DiBiase d. Tim Horner; Dino Bravo, Rougeaus win squashes. FEATURE: BRO. LOVE w. Hulk Hogan. RESTHOLD....for DiBiase-Horner.

(WCCW) - Jeff Jarrett d. Buddy Roberts; Killer Brooks d. Tony Falk; Kerry Von Erich vs. Gary Young no contest when Devastation, Inc., and Brickhouse Brown-J.J. Funk-Chris Adams run in. ANGLE: Eric Embry piledrives ref Harold Harris when Frank Dusek isn't looking and is hired to ref Young-Kerry match; As he refs, Embry is kidnaped during 8-man brawl and is rescued by faces after juicing profusely; Percy Pringle is pummeled by Devastation again while showing REINSTATE ERIC letters. DRAW-PLUS for decent angles.

(NWA/TBS) - From JAPAN: (NWA World Tag Title) Road Warriors d. Jumbo Tsuruta/Yoshiaki Yatsu by countout; ARENA: Eddie Gilbert/Rick Steiner d. Kevin Sullivan/Steve Williams for U.S. tag title. STUDIO: NWA TV TITLE, Mike Rotunda d. Greg Brown; Great Mota d. Jerry Price; ARENA: Ricky Steamboat d. Snake Brown. Other winners: Ranger Ross, Dr. Death/Sullivan, Midnight Express, Samoan Swat Team, Iron Sheik, Dick Murdoch/Breakdance Young. DANGER ZONE: As Paul E. Dangerously tries to interview Cougar Jay, Randy Rose returns to tell Paul he's back, thanks to a contract loophole. But Paul E. refuses to manage him and Secret Service Jack Victory conks Rose with

TV MATCHES FOR WEEK OF March 20-26, 1989



phone and Victory & Paul E. stomped Rose and Jay. DRAW. [MAIN EVENT]: Because of early Easter Sunday deadline, we'll have results from next week's a.m. show. This week's a.m. show was repeat of last week's.

(NWA/SYND.) - [WWF]: Ric Flair d. Cougar Jay; Butch Reed d. Bob Cook; JYD/Ron Simmons d. Russian Assassin Victory/Julio Barrera; Iron Sheik d. Tony Suber; Barry Windham d. Joe Cruz; Danny Spivey/Williams d. Mike Thor/Keith Hart. PEDICINO'S NOSE: Flair, Sting & Luger, Sheik. BOMB. [NWA PRO]: M Ex d. Thor/R.A. Victory; Windham d. Bob Emory; Michael Hayes d. Cook; Spivey/Williams d. Cruz/Suber; Rotunda d. Bobby Mercedes; Lex Luger d. Julio Barrera. BOMB.

(CWF) - Rich Cousins d. David Elder/Sid Owens; Bill Dundee wins DQ over Jackie Fulton when Wendell Cooley blocks Bill's attempt to use knucks; Danny Davis/Willie B. Hert d. J.D. Wolfe/Terry Adonis; Cooley wins DQ over Tom Prichard when Dundee shows up and posts Cooley and Dundee & Prichard jump Fulton; Masa Chono d. Mike Masters; Hunters vs. Ricky & Todd Morton ends in major melee. ANGLES: To put up something for shot at CWF title, Cooley gives Dr. Tom slap in the chops; As Charlie Platt prepares coin flip to determine man to get shot at Jerry Lawler's unified title, Terry Gordy clotheslines Doug Furnas and clobbers him with a table. DRAW...for angles.

LINE OF THE WEEK - 1. Percy Pringle, WCCW: "I got my butt kicked for Eric Embry. The least you could do is send in a letter." 2. Jim Cornette, TBS: "You've got Hiro Matsuda, who you could blindfold with dental floss." 3. Cornette, TBS: "The Iranians have taken over all the 7-11s and the motels." 4. Cornette, TBS: "We beat the Russians at the last CLASH and sent 'em back to Gorbachev with a spot on his head." 5. Paul E. Dangerously, TBS: "Randy, you've got good news? You've got a new job? You driving a cab?" 6. Jake Roberts, WWF: "Jobby Heenan says I have a better chance of beating the casino than beating Andre." 7. Kevin Sullivan, NWA: "If that (Michael Hayes) is excitement, I'm gonna go get myself a barf bag." 8. Charlie Platt, CWF: "You (Tom Prichard) are about as easygoing as a dentist drill." 9. Gary Hart, TBS: "He (Great Mota) comes from the cesspools of sin." 10. Michael Hayes, TBS: "This boy (Vincent Young) can't dance. But he sure can lay out in the sun." 11. Hayes, WWF, on Iron Sheik: "I don't think Arnold Schwarzenegger has anything to worry about."

12. Platt, CWF: "Dr. Tom, it might not have been a 3-carat solitaire but he (Wendell Cooley) sure did give you something (a punch)." 13. Jesse Ventura, WWF: "Bravo lifted 711 pounds but my assist dropped it to 709—one pound per finger." 14. Brother Love, WWF: "According to the Macho Man, Hulk Hogan knows a lot about L-U-S-T...LUST!" 15. Frank Dusek, WCCW, on Embry as ref: "I don't know if this is legal but neither is Akbar." 16. Lance Russell, WWF: "Sheik is wrestling like that's Salomon Ruskie out there and going after the Ayatollah's bounty." 17. Sting, WWF: "It's been a long time since I've seen your face close-up, Lancia Baby. I won't say anything about your face now." 18. Hayes, TBS: "They (SST) can win if they can figure out when it's over." 19. Randy Savage, WWF: "All you people are Puke-a-Maniacs."

STRONGEST COMMENTS - 1. Cornette, TBS: "There's a bunch of people in the NWA who have no business being here." 2. Sullivan, NWA PRO: "Since the Midnight Express got rid of the Original Midnight Express, they've lost a little steam."

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK - 1. Jim Ross, TBS, to Hayes: "Were you in Dan Quayle's National Guard unit?" 2. Ross, to Hayes: "Are you learning to speak Japanese by listening to those cassettes when you sleep at night?" HAYES, "Are you a cop?"

NICKNAMES OF THE WEEK - 1. Eddie Gilbert, for calling Matsuda's company the "Sack-o'-Hockey Corporation." 2. Cornette, TBS, for calling SST "two big ugly fish-eating freaks from GILLIGAN'S ISLAND." 3. Bad News Brown, WWF, for "Hacksaw Jim Dummy."

BEST ANGLES - 1. DANGER ZONE, TBS. 2. Gordy-Furnas, CWF.

PHOTOS

WORST ANGLE - SCW, David Sammartino turn.

BEST PICTURES - 1. PORTLAND, Grappler-Stiles angle. 2. CMF, Gordy-Furnas angle. 3. WCCW, Akbar swinging at a fan.

BEST AUDIO - Paul E., TBS, shouting to Victory, "Do it to Randy."

PASSWORD OF THE WEEK - Hayes, TBS, for UNINVITEDLY: "Randy Rose snuck out on the set UNINVITEDLY."

DREADED GLITCH AWARD - 1. NWA PRO, for spelling Ric Flair's name Rick. 2. NWA PRO, for spelling the Iron Sheik SHIEK.

BOO AWARD - TBS, for terribly unspecific promotion of April 2 events and only one casual mention of Friday CLASH preview show.

TUBE TALK

Randy Savage on ARSENIO HALL SHOW this past Monday to plug WWS matchup.....The TV GUIDE listing for Friday night's COUNTDOWN TO CLASH (10:50 p.m., ET, TBS) had no details and no ad to plug the show....At least TBS did a well-produced promo to boost the Flair-Steamboat New Orleans showdown but, still, nothing specific Saturday night inside WCW. ?????.....The Portland show has been the best thing going the last month. Reminds me of a lot of the promise we saw in CMF last summer.....In answer to many Qs and callers, the address to send your views to TBS is WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING, One CNN Center, Box 105366, Atlanta GA 30348-5366. Address them to Jack Petrik or Jim Herd.

Gordy's attack on Furnas was one of the better angles on the CMF in a while. It just needed some tighter shots....NWA is negotiating with experienced post-production tape editors. It can't come fast enough. The editing was so choppy on syndication Saturday, it destroyed the value of post-producing....Lance Russell is one of the best things to come along to the new NWA regime and his play-by-play is a real spark....Don't be surprised to see some further changes in WORLD WIDE which will make much better use of Lance's talents....The Michael Hayes color role is a VERY positive move on TBS. Jim Ross had the right tension and I predict they'll blend even better in the Centre Stage locale with more people present.

For you Atlanta WVEU watchers, here's the possibilities for SUPERSTARS: 1) Home Shopping may retain the wrestling and paid religion blocks on the weekend because they are profitable; 2) If not, expect the show to move to a network of four North Georgia independents, including Griffin, Rome and Athens....Finally, a salute to Sean Mooney. I wouldn't have given you a plug nickel for his early stiffness last summer but he has gained much more confidence and is a much improved studio host for the WWF....Also, Cornette & Co. aren't gone 'til the 15th. Couldn't some one intercede before then?

Photos of Jim Cornette & the Midnight Express and of Kevin & Kerry Von Erich in this week's MATWATCH are courtesy of Dennis Brent and PRO WRESTLING DIGEST, Dallas TX.

Next week in MATWATCH: a special 8-page review of SUPER SUNDAY and a surprise comedy section.

CABLE RATINGS RAP (Week of March 18-20)

	Rating	Share	Homes
NWA MAIN EVENT (TBS 3/19)	3.1	6.0	1.497 mil.
WWF PRIME TIME (USA 3/20)	3.1	4.5	1.451 mil.
WWF ALL-AMERIC. (USA 3/19)	2.8	7.3	1.31 mil.
NWA WORLD CHAM. (TBS 3/18)	2.7	5.0	1.304 mil.
NWA MAIN EV. AM (TBS 3/18)	0.8	5.6	386,400

(ANALYSIS: I can't explain the sudden resurgence of WCW to a 2.7, which ties its highest rating since moving to 7:05 p.m. The Michael Hayes situation was teased throughout the show but not enough to make one believe something major was coming. That Flair-Windham vs. Gilbert-Luger match was enough to hype the NME rating to the top, the seventh straight week NME has led the NWA pack. My hunch is that PRIME TIME, in addition to being a weak show, was hurt by ABC's strong WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE finale. I also wonder if this isn't the same 386,400 homes watching the a.m. NME. It's been fixed on that rating and share for five weeks.)

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